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WARTIME WORK OF STATE EXTENSION SERVICES

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U.S. Department of Agriculture

SUMMARY No. 34

OCTOBER 31, 1942

CONNECTICUT (October 15).--Farm scrap harvest under way. Sample reports show: Litchfield County, 10 towns organized with Connecticut Volunteers active in canvassing for scrap; New Haven County, 18 towns organized with 140 neighborhood leaders at work; Windham County, 12 towns organized, with Connecticut Volunteers, Boy Scouts, and volunteer fire companies working on the canvass. Tolland County, town of Mansfield taking lead with 70 neighborhood leaders calling on 700 families to solicit scrap and make arrangements to have it delivered at dumps or called for by pick-up crews.

Two-thirds of unusually heavy McIntosh apple crop saved through efforts of volunteer pickers recruited from towns, cities, schools, colleges, and factories. Faculty members and students of university picked 3,875 bushels. Thirty Yale students gave up week's vacation for full-time orchard work. Wesleyan students excused from physical-education classes to work as pickers. Students of one high school in Southington picked between 9,000 and 10,000 bushels. Baldwin harvest now beginning, and appeals will again be made for assistance to growers.

Working on plans for fire-prevention educational campaign, starting with Fire Prevention Week and continuing thereafter. Work will be organized to supplement program of the State Defense Council. Work will probably be on neighborhood level where small groups of families may be stimulated to take account of their neighborhood fire hazards and facilities for fighting fire. Also an opportunity to expand organization of 4-H Club fire-fighting crews to fill gaps in the forest fire-fighting service.

Arrangements being made for State-wide garden conference, to be held in January, to work out coordinated program for home gardens in 1943. Federated Garden Clubs, Connecticut Vegetable Growers' Association, Connecticut Forest and Park Association, schools, and other interested agencies, cooperating.

MINNESOTA (October 20).--Conferences of specialists and agents with feed dealers continued to discuss best feed uses and revision of rations to conserve feed ingredients that are scarce. Dealers will distribute pamphlets More Eggs, a War Need, and Protein Peps up Production. Plans approved for publishing quiz sheets on poultry, swine, and dairy management as attention-getters in Food-for-Freedom campaign.

Agents cooperating in several activities to alleviate farm-labor scarcity and gather facts on actual labor situation and its effect on 1943 production. Agents taking applications from farmers needing hired hands, at request of State manpower group set up by the governor; also cooperating closely with U.S. Employment Service. Men neighborhood leaders making survey of production trends in their neighborhoods and reporting farms that are likely to be idle or curtailed in production next spring. Results to be tabulated at university.

Oil and protein needs for war furthered by flax-improvement program planned for 25 leading flax counties. Three-year plan set up, under which farmers co-operate in flaxseed cleaning, control of weeds, and experiments to combat rust. Trials will show effects of early and late planting, sequence of crops used before and after flax, and cultural practices to eliminate weeds.

Eleven hybrid corn maturity trials completed in cooperation with experiment station and State department of agriculture. Trials now furnish standards for sale of hybrid seed under State seed-corn law.

Plans ready for State-wide mobilization under new streamlined 4-H program to take place in connection with National Achievement Week, November 7-14. Victory pledge cards calling for participation in home service and farm-production service activities replace old enrollment cards. Neighborhood leaders enlisted to help expand 4-H participation and reorganize clubs. Annual Junior Livestock Show in October successful; nearly a thousand beefeves, lambs, barrows, and poultry-pens exhibited and marketed. Theme of show was food production.

MISSISSIPPI (October 1).--During August and September, special emphasis placed on seeding and fertilizing winter legumes cover crops, pasture improvement, collection of scrap metals and rubber, sale of bonds and stamps, fire prevention and control, fall vegetable gardens, and canning, drying, and storing of fruits and vegetables, including root crops. These programs channeled through neighborhood-leader system. Sixty-eight counties used neighborhood leaders in carrying a total of 169 programs to the people, or an average of 3 programs per county. In execution of these programs 145,540 families were reached, with 105,655 cooperating. Forty-seven counties held a total of 272 leader-training meetings with 3,172 leaders present. 32,000 pieces of literature bearing on war activities distributed.

Fire prevention and control campaign organized, and meetings for leaders held in every county in cooperation with State and Federal Forestry Services. Members of 4-H Clubs distributing literature and fire-hazard check sheets to every farm family.

In cooperation with State and county ODT, surveys being made to determine number as well as condition of trucks in each county. Community transportation committees organized to deal with farm-to-market transportation problems under Nation-wide gas and tire rationing administration.

Renewed drive for scrap metals and rubber featured in every county resulting in collection of an average of 2,556,000 pounds metal and 55,807 pounds rubber per county.

Organized district cooperative feeder and stocker cattle sales held at seven points in State, at which 3,121 head of cattle were sold for a total of \$107,148.

4-H Club members' participation in war activities has resulted in collection of: Iron, 3,111,059 pounds; rubber, 370,170 pounds; aluminum, 12,196 pounds; copper, 4,088 pounds; paper, 112,187 pounds; fat, 1,733 pounds. 4-H members bought war bonds and stamps amounting to \$127,298.93; sold \$44,351.10 worth; and won \$2,620.15 as prizes. Victory gardens reported, 4,090; Victory pigs, 2,451. 4-H girls remodeled 8,928 garments.

Negro work.—All Negro community leaders, teachers, and preachers supplied with Monthly Garden Guide; Feeding the Family in Wartime; Canning Budget for Family of Five; Food for Freedom Goals; and other bulletins and circulars, and such leaders have attended leader-training meetings. In two counties large plantation owners have employed a full-time Negro horticulturist to work with Negro tenants in production and preservation of food, and have supplied jars and built and equipped a community canning center.

NEW YORK (October 15).—During September, 796 local leaders worked with four foods-and-nutrition specialists at 47 training schools. Foods and nutrition classes attended by 6,994 homemakers. All programs emphasized the packed lunch as part of daily food planning, food buying, and meal planning to cooperate with shortages and rationed foods; how to render, clarify, and use cooking fats that might otherwise be thrown away.

In Suffolk County a trailer exhibit, parked on the main streets of important centers, was used to spread information on food preservation. Exhibit based on daily food guide and minimum amounts of food needed to be stored for one person for 1 year. Contained: Home-made top-of-the-stove dryer; sample storage box; equipment for brining, pressure-cooker, and boiling-water bath canning; examples of canned, dried, brined, and stored foods. Leaflets on food preservation given away. Approximately 500 people visited exhibit in a single week.

Canteen training school held at the college attended by 70 home-economics teachers, homemakers, dietitians, and home demonstration agents. Designed to instruct these persons so that they may teach others in their localities to prepare and manage mass-feeding activities. Program included meal planning, food purchasing, organization of workers, quantity food production and service, kitchen housekeeping and sanitation, as well as coordination of teaching methods and subject matter adapted to group-feeding course.

Training schools on furniture repair and remodeling for State leaders, home demonstration and club agents held in six regions. Study clubs and discussion groups 20 counties are studying such topics as Safeguarding the family in wartime; Neighborhood activities in wartime; Children in wartime. In one county, family-life specialist developing course of study for junior child-care aides, training them to care for young children, thus freeing mothers for other wartime activities.

Cooperating with all agencies in effort to obtain necessary seasonal help in harvesting fruits and vegetables. Several thousand school children have been released for not more than 15 days of farm work this fall. Figures not yet available but may easily be double the 19,000 released in fall of 1941. Survey of farm labor underway to be used as basic guide for next year's program.

Two thousand Victory Garden harvest shows goal set by State committee. The first one, held in July, was outstanding success.

Prompt and vigorous action taken to aid and encourage poultrymen who are in position to respond to emergency poultry-meat program. Information distributed to poultrymen gives directions for winter brooding and rearing of meat birds and other advice. Special notices sent to 600 hatcherymen and poultry breeders, and to 1,100 feed dealers and manufacturers. Extension agents, 4-H Club agents, and vocational agriculture teachers will participate in carrying out program.

NORTH DAKOTA (October 15).--Farm-labor problem continuing to receive attention, including assistance to farms and cooperation with U. S. Employment Service in locating and distributing workers; information to farms on labor situation and on maximum efficient use of equipment and facilities; organization of volunteer labor crews in towns for work on farms. Neighborhood leaders served as key representatives in bringing information to farms and in obtaining data to guide labor program. Leaders also served in setting out information relative machinery priorities organization each county in cooperation with USDA War Boards. System for rationing set up, with committees made up of war-board chairman and two farmers.

Victory Garden emphasis shifted to storage and preservation all products, coupled with home-economics information on utilization products. Steps taken to prepare for 1943 garden drive of even greater intensity. Fall garden shows throughout State served effectively in showing urgency of garden and food production. Fruit plantings for further development of gardens emphasized, with information provided.

Salvage campaigns continued with Extension functioning to aid salvage groups in getting results in farm communities.

Agents assisting in obtaining adequate space for storage 1942 grain crops. Selection of bin sites, construction problems, etc., receiving attention. Agents as secretaries of local AAA committees working closely in grainstorage program of CCC. Information given on handling, storing, and otherwise preserving rust-resistant supplies of flaxseed.

In cooperation FCA, district conferences held to train extension workers to serve farmers more effectively with credit information. Subjects covered: Production credit and credit machinery; financing of farmer cooperatives; real-estate loans and financing; and work of Intermediate Credit Bank. Conferences gave full consideration to war situation and war production credit problems.

Fire-prevention efforts stepped up to meet fall hazard of grass fires to food storages, farm equipment, and buildings. Educational work carried on in all counties with neighborhood again serving effectively. Publicity campaign conducted to warn of fires, suggest control and protection methods. 4-H members enrolled in campaign. Special-recognition cards prepared for club members signed by governor and countersigned by agent. Cooperation State highway department enlisted.

Poultry work directed at increasing production and improving quality. Importance of poultry in view of meat rationing emphasized. State-wide publicity campaign carried on, with cooperation State poultry-improvement board, on finishing birds for market. Posters and information distributed State-wide.

4-H annual achievement days used to emphasize and display information on war programs including gardens, fire prevention, Food-for-Freedom work, etc. Homemakers' achievement days used same information.

OREGON (October 1).---During October, neighborhood leaders will be trained for their No. 2 job - farm transportation, flour and bread enrichment, and fat and metal salvage. Handbooks on these phases have been prepared and distributed to leaders, and central staff members have visited each county for purpose outlining the job and organizing with the county staff a program completely setting up the neighborhood-leader plan in the county. Conference with State coordinator of civilian defense resulted in understanding that Extension, through neighborhood leaders, will carry various aspects of war-emergency public services to rural people, and work in urban areas will be done through OCD block plan of public service.

Cooperating with State salvage committee, leaders are carrying out follow-up drive in which every farm will be surveyed to determine amount scrap delivered, what remains to be delivered, and when it will be delivered, with a view to getting the last piece of scrap delivered to scrap depots.

Charter outlining work of county farm transportation committees prepared and presented by extension economist at meeting of organization and agency representatives including Grange, Farm Bureau, Motor Transport Division of ODT, public-utilities commissioners, Interstate Commerce Commission, Bureau of Motor Carriers, State USDA War Boards. Charter adopted and plans discussed for servicing county committees to explain scope of work and procedure.

Extension prepared to participate in National Fire Control Week on State-wide basis. County agents will summarize season's results in news stories, radio programs, and point to precautions to take during winter months. A special radio program organized in which various cooperating agencies in fire control participated. Reports continue to come in on results of educational work on rural fire control and organization and training of voluntary rural fire crews.

In consultation with Director of Federal Employment Service for Oregon, plan of cooperation developed for farm-labor work during 1943 which included maintenance and servicing of county farm-labor subcommittees of county agricultural planning committees, each county; Compilation of data submitted by county agents on acreage, volume of production for various crops, and seasonal reports on time of harvest to gage farm-labor requirements; general educational work in farm-labor field with farmers and others.

Continued emphasis on use of wheat for livestock feeding. Two bulletins on subject in process of preparation, one dealing with use of wheat in dairy rations, the other on use of wheat in feeding hogs, beef cattle, and sheep.

Work of home-economics extension staff included food preservation in canning, freezing, drying, and storing; conduct of canteen classes; organization of school-lunch program. During September, workers in home economics either held or leaders trained by them held 622 meetings attended by 14,257 persons in 17 counties.

4-H Club Food for Victory products shown at fairs during September. Fat livestock, beef calves, hogs, and lambs generally exhibited along with results of Victory Gardens and canning clubs. As rural doctors diminish in numbers, importance of 4-H health clubs recognized. 4-H members participating in salvage drives, and giving attention to purchase of savings bonds and stamps. At Klamath Junior Livestock Show, 4-H livestock sold for \$6,000, of which \$1,140.32 was invested in war bonds and stamps.

WYOMING (October 15).--County agents in sugar-beet counties giving much time to helping farmers devise ways and means of getting labor for beet harvest. Work includes getting applications from growers and presenting them to U. S. Employment officials to procure Japanese laborers from relocation camp at Cody; helping organize groups of businessmen to work in fields; working with school boards in arranging to close schools part time so high-school boys and girls can work in fields. Agents themselves have gone into the fields with groups of businessmen and service clubs and topped beets. Efforts of local people heroic and highly commendable in attempting to solve own labor problems.

Neighborhood-leader system completed in two remaining counties. Start made in promoting increased bond sales through these leaders as means of taking to every farmer and ranchman necessity and obligation in this phase of war work.

Extension specialists in home economics giving full time to educational work directly related to war effort. Eleven demonstrations on remodeling and mending to make garments last longer given in six counties by clothing specialist, and re-created in their districts by county project leaders. Refinishing of furniture also given attention to save purchasing new. Activities of home-management specialist included discussions at county homemakers' achievement meetings on What Farm Families Can Do in the War Effort. Food and nutrition specialist worked to promote larger interest in food production and storage and help farm women realize importance of the work they are contributing to the war effort.

Specialist in forestry and horticulture continued his campaign into five counties to encourage construction of good storage cellars and storage of larger amounts of fruits and vegetables for winter use.